

Congregational Church of Great Cranberry Island

May 18, 2014 Meeting

Meeting Attendance

Phil Whitney, Karin Whitney, Becca Powell, Tom Powell, Beverly Sanborn, Ruth Westphal, Gaile Colby, Chris Johnston, Ingrid Gaither. Malcolm Donald by phone.

Proceedings

President Phil Whitney called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m., opened with prayer by Pastor Powell.

The meeting takes place after a morning service led by Pastor Powell and coffee hour with snacks.

Minutes Review

Minutes from the last meeting were motioned for approval and accepted with one spelling correction: only one "r" in parish.

Treasurer's Report

Chris passed out an YTD income/expense report and a portfolio summary from BHB&T. See the reports for more details. The report was motioned for approval and accepted unanimously. Of note today,

- A. There have been three withdrawals from the trust account this year. Two in Jan and one on March. All for parsonage renovations.
- B. Expenses include a \$13,000 lump sum payment to the parish committee to cover the GCI portion of Tom's salary.
- C. Chris has not yet received the bill from Blair for firewood, Tom will resend it so that Blair can be paid asap.
- D. So far, for the year, we are approx. \$3,000 ahead in income vs. expense.
- E. The portfolio is up over the last month, appears to be recovering.

Old Business

A. Stanley Cemetery Restoration

The committee has written and approved an appeal letter to send out very soon and expects to make its first payment to Fred Winegar in June. GCIHS agreed at their last meeting to accept this committee under their 501c3 status.

B. Parsonage Generator

No work has been done. We are still waiting for Charlie Wheeler (NEPlumbing) who says he is waiting on an OK to proceed from his office.

C. Electric Appliance Installation in Parsonage

The new appliances are stored in the parsonage basement but Whitney Electric cannot install until the work from Northeast Plumbing takes place.

D. Selling Propane Appliances

Tom suggests donating the washer/dryer unit to the parsonage on Islesford since they are trying to quickly prepare their parsonage for summer rental. Ruth motions, Gaile seconds, all in favor, to donate this appliance to the Islesford Church for use in their parsonage.

E. Shed Repairs

No work has happened yet because we are waiting for Northeast Plumbing.

F. Minister Benefits Issues

Tom reports that apparently no social security was withheld from his pay and now a penalty has been levied. Tom and Chris will speak to Bangor Payroll about how to remedy this. Tom reports that the parish committee meets later this week to discuss this and other topics.

G. Painting Church Lobby

Work was completed to everyone's satisfaction by David Ferreira. He provided a bill for \$325 and a report of the work he did including suggestions for maintenance and possible future repairs. Discussion follows regarding the leaking water problem in this area. David suggested installing a fine wire mesh in the belfry area. All agree this should be addressed sooner rather than later. Phil will see who is available.

H. Ladies Aid Building Usage Costs

Ruth reports from the last ladies aid meeting that they had high energy and heating costs this winter. She suggests the church donation \$100 per month of usage. Beverly motions, Ruth seconds, all in favor, to donate \$500 to the ladies aid (equals \$100 per month the church made use of the LA building). Tom will write a note of appreciation to go with the check.

I. Fryeburg Congregational Visit in April

Approx 17 people attended the service and 27 for lunch. The group was doing mission work on the mainland and was brought over to GCI for church service and lunch by the Sea Coast Mission. Thank you to Karin Whitney and Helen Bertles for food preparations.

J. Church Missions

Tom reports on the activities and success of the Blessing of the Fleet held on May 3 on Islesford.

Ingrid offers to lead a mission project of a food pantry for next winter.

Karin shares with the group that CIRT has created a wish list of items and help and suggests the church, either as a group, or as individuals, consider helping.

K. Combined Pentecost Service

June 8 on GCI, Islesford will come over and leave on the 1:40 p.m. Cranberry Cove boat. We will provide sandwiches and Islesford will bring desserts. Becca will coordinate rides to and from the dock. Karin will coordinate food.

L. Summer Musicians Payment

Tabled until June

M. Insurance Premium Payment

Tabled until September.

N. Proposed Presbyterian Work Support

Tabled until September

New Business

A. Policy of Meeting Notifications

Phil has been emailing members over the winter to notify of church meetings. He asks is this working and should it be continued? The consensus is yes. Ruth suggests also posting at the post office and Tom offers to mention meetings in his weekly emailing.

B. Storage Items Disposal

There are many items currently stored in the church basement, the hearse house, and an upstairs bedroom of the parsonage. It is decided today to create a committee to go through all the items and decide what to do with them. Members will be Tom, Phil, Chris, and Gaile.

C. Ladies Aid – remove storage

There are items being stored in the church basement that belong to Ladies Aid that need to be moved out, but with Ladies Aid input.

D. Hearse House Yard Sale

There are plans to convert this area to office space for Tom. The ladies aid would need to move many of the items they have stored there. Some stuff could maybe be thrown out or simply rearranged so that part of the space could be for the office and the rest of the space used as it has been. It is decided today that Tom, Gaile and Eileen will address this space issue and decide what and where to move. Leftover items could be sold at a yard sale. The church will also ask the ladies aid to not add new items here for storage.

E. Selected furniture donate to CIRT

It is suggested that the leftover furniture from the parsonage be donated to the CIRT tenants in the Rice House, expected this summer. All present agree this is ok. But make it clear, only parsonage furniture is being donated, not any ladies aid property.

F. Proposal – Basement Interim Gym Location

Tom proposes that the basement in the church could be offered to the Futures Group once renovations on Longfellow begin and make use of the upstairs gym impossible. This could also be considered a church mission too, in that it benefits the community. There is no decision today, although the consensus is that it is a good idea and worth pursuing.

G. Proposal – Form Summer Church Committee

Tom proposes forming an “altar guild” to make sure the details of church service gets done and has leadership. Like the flowers, brass polishing, cleaning the linens, providing communion bread, etc. Although these tasks have always been accomplished successfully in the past, the thought is that it would be easier to oversee and delegate if all these tasks were combined into the altar guild and had members. Also mentioned that this would give seasonal members who have expressed interest a way to contribute and be involved. Chris motions, Becca seconds, all in favor, to have Tom develop a list of tasks then recruit members for the guild. Ruth agrees to start out as a point person to help identify potential members.

H. New Memberships

A few summer residents have expressed interest in becoming associate members. This will be addressed as they arrive on island.

I. Cemetery Mowing

Still waiting for a decision from Tony Frazzitta if he will be able to mow this summer.

Other Business

A. Parking Stickers

Malcolm gave the stickers to Ruth, she will get them to the visiting summer ministers. She also offers to transport them upon arrival.

B. Trees behind parsonage

It is decided today that the new “furniture committee” will decide which trees need to be limbed or removed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ingrid Gaither